

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 033178

O R 210826Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2131

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 484

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, AS, KN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A. SEOUL 328; B. TOKYO 787

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF ON JAN 21 PASSED EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE COPY OF CANBERRA'S REPLY TO MOFA LETTER. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN FOR 1630 JAN 21 AND WILL DELIVER REPLY AT THAT TIME. TEXT OF AUSTRALIAN LETTER BEING

TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL.

2. CANBERRA'S REPLY INFORMS THE ROKG THAT GOA HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AIMED AT ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG. ROKG IS ADVISED IN LETTER THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO HAVE ITS CASE HEARD AGAIN, AUSTRALIA DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION.

3. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF SAID WASHINGTON WILL BE INFORMED BY AUSTRAL-
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IAN EMBASSY AT OPENING OF BUSINESS JAN 21. LINE WITH STATE DEP-

ARTMENT WILL BE THAT RECOGNITION IS INEVITABLE AND GOA NOW INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING "POST FACTO" SITUATION. GOA DOES NOT WISH TO CREATE THE APPEARANCE OF A VICTORY FOR THE NORTH AND AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO AVOID AN "EMOTIONAL" STATEMENT BY SEOUL WHICH COULD BE USED TO ADVANTAGE BY PYONGYANG.

4. ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF, PYONGYANG HAS NOT BEEN ADVISED OF GOA INTENTIBL AND WILL NOT BE APPROACHED UNTIL ROKG HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REPLY TO CANBERRA. EXPRESSED VIEW GOA HAS NO ASSURANCE THAT SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PYONGYANG WILL BE EASY. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVUN GOA IS UNLIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY FURTHER ROK (OR USG) ARGUEMENTS AND EXPECTS RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG WILL COME QUICKLY WHEVEVER THE PROTEST AOF OTHERS.

5. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF SAID CANBERRA EXPECTS NEW ZEALAND WILL FOLLOW AUSTRALIAN LEAD. NOTING THAT ROKG HAS ALREADY AGREED TO SINGAPORE'S ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH, HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT REMAINING ASIAN COUNTRIES MAY MOVE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH NORTH. HE ACKNOWLEDGED TOO THAT EEC WILL BE INFLUENCED BY CANBERRA'S MOVE.

6. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN MOVE TOWARD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA HAS BEEN SUFFICIENTLY TELEGRAPHED SO IT WILL NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO ROKG. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED BY FONMIN KIM'S EFFORT TO DELAY RECOGNITION, ROKG IS CONCERNED THAT IMPACT OF AUSTRALIAN MOVE ON OTHERS.

7. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY CANBERRA CAN BETTER ASSES1, 3*7),3 7 & -0049-: # -5 5#8 098,5. HOWEVER, BELIEVE ROK CONCERN ABOUT WIDER IMPACT OF AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION IS VALID.
ERICSON

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